

a first driving system which moves the first object in the first direction, at least a part of the first driving system being on the one side of the projection system;

a second driving system which moves the first object in a plane substantially parallel to the surface of the first object while the first object is moved by the first driving system, at least a part of the second driving system being on the one side of the projection system;

a third driving system which moves the second object in the second direction, at least a part of the third driving system being on the other side of the projection system;

a first movable member which is movable in the first direction; and

a second movable member which is movable relative to the first movable member and which holds the first object,

wherein the first object held by the second movable member is moved in the first direction by moving the first movable member using the first driving system, and the first object is moved relative to the first movable member by moving the second movable member using the second driving system.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 13-39, 41-43, 45, 49-55, 68-70, 72-74, 76, 80-84, 96-99, 101-103, 105, 109-115, 128-142 and 189 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 37 is amended. In particular, claim 37 is amended to re-insert the "third driving system" into claim 37. As noted in the Office Action, "the third driving system" was omitted from the amended claim 37 included with the September 28 Amendment. This omission by Applicant was inadvertent, and Applicant apologizes for the inconvenience caused to the Examiner by this inadvertent omission.

This Amendment should be entered after final rejection at least because it overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and adds a feature that was previously

included in claim 37. A Supplemental Reissue Declaration, referencing this amendment will be submitted shortly.

Claims 42, 55 and 132 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Applicant submits that the above amendment to claim 37 overcomes this rejection.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-8, 15-29 and 34.

Applicant also notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 13, 14, 31, 32, 39, 54, 70, 83, 99, 114, 129, 133 and 139. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Numerous claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 5,506,684 to Ota et al. Of these claims, claims 9, 30, 33, 35, 36, 37, 68 and 97 are independent claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Office Action relies upon the embodiment of Figs. 16-21 of Ota et al. Ota et al. claims priority as a continuation of application no. 299,305 filed September 1, 1994, which is a CIP of application no. 934,247, filed August 25, 1992, which is a CIP of application no. 863,675 filed April 1, 1992. The embodiment of Figs. 16-21 is only disclosed in application no. 299,305. Accordingly, the effective U.S. filing date under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) for Figs. 16-21 is September 1, 1994, which is after the October 22, 1993 effective U.S. filing date of the 304 patent (and thus, of this reissue application). Thus, Figs. 16-21 of Ota et al. do not qualify as prior art against the claims of this application. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In addition, although the system of Figs. 16-21 of Ota et al. includes interferometers, the interferometers are not used to determine positional deviation between the mask and substrate stages. Rather, a separate measurement system that utilizes grating patterns provided on the mask and substrate is used to determine positional deviation and drive the slightly movable stage 107. Similarly, the other embodiments of Ota et al., which do not use

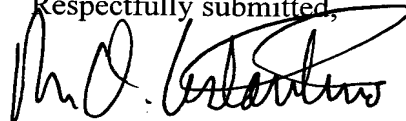
stage 107, also use a separate measurement system that utilizes grating patterns to determine and correct for positional deviation. Accordingly, claim 36, which recites interferometers that are used to detect a positional deviation amount between a mask and a plate, is not anticipated by any embodiment of Ota et al. for this additional reason.

With respect to the Office Action's comments regarding JP-A-4-196513 (see the "conclusion" portion of the Office Action), it is noted that identity of inventorship does not disqualify a reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Thus, while JP-A-4-196513 currently qualifies as a reference under §102(b), Applicant submits that the claims are patentable over JP-A-4-196513 because it also does not disclose or suggest the various combinations of features recited in the independent claims of this application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC/ccs

Enclosure:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 9, 2002

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